

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2015**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. The Chairman noted that all the commissioners were present. John Hutcheson offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The chairman stated that the minutes of three meetings had been sent to the board to review in advance. He asked if there were additions, deletions, or changes to be made. There were none.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2015 Regular meeting, the October 12, 2015 Work Session and the October 21, 2015 Special Called meeting as written. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Poole asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Poole encouraged everyone to take time to go visit the recreation facility. The concession stand is almost finished. The four baseball/softball fields are sodded and the senior walking path around the fields is almost finished. One time around it will be ½ mile.

Department Head Reports

Transit

Donna Watkins, Transit director, reported that the transit program is funded approximately 60% by the federal transit administrations 5311 program. Haralson has 3 full time and 1 part time employee. They run 4 handicapped buses and 1 van and serve approximately 500 citizens per month going to various destinations with their primary focus on senior citizens. They transport to medical appointments, DFACS, grocery stores, pharmacies, etc. All shopping is done within Haralson County with a few exceptions of businesses in Bremen such as Ingles. The drivers go through strict background and driving checks and must go through training from the Georgia DOT and must pass random drug and alcohol checks.

Tax Assessor

Hubert Sparks, Chief Appraiser, gave details about what his office does. He stated that they are responsible for sending out 16,503 assessment notices each year. His office must view all properties 1 time every three years. In 2015, there were 615 rechecks due to fire, add-on's, living in "storage buildings", etc. Last year there were 354 appeals, which he said was a low number considering this is mass appraisal with a limited staff. He stated that they are reviewing commercial properties this year. He stated that his staff tries to keep the public aware of all exemptions available; they work with the road, fire and E911 departments on mapping needs. He also updated the board on the cell tower audits. To date the \$20,000 investment will produce approximately \$60,000 in additional revenues. Chairman Poole reminded everyone that the state requires the sales ratio's to come in between 36% and 44% and Mr. Sparks stated that Haralson County came in at 40% this year which is perfect in the eyes of the state.

Permits

Glenda Wade reported for permits. Mrs. Wade stated that this department works with many different departments and the school system on several items such as addressing, working with ISO to keep the building codes up to date and keep insurance premiums down, along with doing

inspections and permits. She stated that permitting is up with the first four months of this fiscal year bringing in as much revenue as half the year last year. She stated that they had completed 369 inspections, issued 269 permits, including 21 new homes, 27 mobile homes, 13 commercial permits (chicken houses and cell tower antennas) 52 additions/renovations and 8 pools for a total revenue of \$55,196. She stated that Haralson County will need to adopt new building codes with amendments in order to keep our current ISO ratings.

Mrs. Wade finished by asking everyone to keep Robert Smith, the building inspector, in your prayers. He is out with a serious medical issue.

Item #1 – Corinth Ball Field Lease

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had been given the lease to review prior to today and stated that this had been discussed at the retreat work session. He asked if there was any further discussion. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the lease of the Corinth ballfields to the Corinth Baptist Church. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – Chairman Vehicle Decal Exemption

Chairman Poole stated that a public hearing had been held prior to this meeting for the public to state their opinion on this item. He asked the board if they had any more discussion. They did not. Commissioner Robinson motioned to exempt the chairman's vehicle from the decal requirements. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – SPLOST 6 Budget

Alison Palmer, County Clerk, explained that this budget was according to the SPLOST ballot and was a legal requirement. Chairman Poole asked if there were any questions. There were none. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the SPLOST 6 budget. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #4 – Volunteer Firefighter Workers Comp Resolution

Alison Palmer stated that this was a resolution that had to be approved in order to cover the volunteer firefighters on the worker's compensation policy. Haralson County has had them covered, however, the original resolution could not be found. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #5 – NACO Membership

Chairman Poole stated that this is the National Association of Counties. He stated that this organization keeps the county aware of things happening on a national level. Commissioner Bennett added that it also has other benefits such as a discount prescription cards that the county can obtain for the citizens. Alison Palmer was instructed to check on the prescription cards. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve membership with NACO. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Department Report

Bill McConnell, Public Works director, stated that he has been with the county for 20 years. He said the current rainy weather was hampering much of their work, but they are currently bushhogging, cleaning ditches, pipes, etc. Major projects for this year are paving Loftis, Henry Lewis and Defnall roads. He stated that they have seeded the area around the recreation projects, which stabilizes it for the winter. The C&D Landfill is completed and in use. Commissioner Bennett stated that she had received complaints about pulpwooders at Francis White and Loftis roads. Mr. McConnell stated that they were addressing that situation.

Item #6 – Executive Session

Chairman Poole stated that the executive session was to address a personnel issue.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Chairman Poole asked everyone else to leave the room temporarily.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Bennett left the meeting during the executive session.

Chairman Poole stated that they had addressed a personnel issue.

Public Participation on Non Agenda Items

The only person signed up was not in attendance.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer

County Clerk